

A f. 2. h.
LETTER
Concerning the present State
OF
PHYSICK,
And the
REGULATION
Of the Practice of it in this
KINGDOM.

Written to a Doctor here in London.

Ἰντρεὺς Φιλδσοφῶ ἸσθδσϞ. Hipp. de dec. Heb.

L O N D O N,

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Joh. Hall, R. P. D.
Episc. Lond. à Sac.
Domest.





WORTHY SIR,

NOW I am safely arriv'd here, and retir'd from the noise and importunity of publick business, I have a little leasure to consider the Civilities I received from you at *London*, and thank you for them: But *my Lady*----- is most particularly sensible of the favour you did her, in sending her that excellent *Syrup* of your own preparation; and as well for the good effects she has found of it, as for your most exquisite manner of preparing it, she ceases not to commend it infinitely to her nearest Relations, and other *Persons of Quality*, who will very shortly, I know, desire you to take the trouble of making some more of it for them. And as *her Ladyship* has been wont alwayes to condemn the *Syrups, Conservees*, and other *Medicines* of the *Apothecaries*, as nauseous, fulsome, and unhealthy, compar'd with those which her self and other *Ladies* of the Country make, without regard of expence or charge, to have them perfectly good; so now

he does it much more, in consideration of this which you have sent her.

These discourses of *her Ladyship* put me in minde of what past in that excellent company of *Virtuosi* at Sir *Thomas*----- House, where you and I had lately the honour to receive a noble entertainment. And in truth all then present did very much resent the *unhappy estate of the profession of Physick*, as it now stands in this Kingdom, both in respect of the worthiness of the thing it self, and its mighty concernments in humane life, and the society of mankind; as also, as it is an honourable way, wherein all the *Gentlemen* of *England* have been ever accustomed to breed and educate some of their Children. And in both these respects there is no *Gentleman* in the *Nation*, but ought to take himself concerned to secure it so far from the rude pretences of vain and bold men, that in the first place it may be really serviceable to those ends for which *Heaven* mercifully gave it, and also may be a decent and worthy means of *subsistence*, as it hath hitherto been, to persons of *ingenuous Birth* and *liberal Education*, who shall in pursuance of those noble ends address themselves to the Study of it.

Now

Now because you know very well that my *curiosity* and *inclination* have ever led me to a more then ordinary consideration of that which you *profess*, you will the less wonder to finde me *offering some propositions*, which, in my poor opinion, will *remedy the present defects both in the method and practice of it*, restore it to its *primitiv*e and most excellent form, and *effectually establish it in that degree of honour and estimation which all Ages have so justly had for it*.

And whereas I have several times found both your self and some other *Physicians* of my acquaintance possess'd with apprehensions, because *our House* did not pass the Patent, by *His Majesty* lately granted to the *Colledge*: though I will not make my self guilty of so much rashness as to censure the advise by which that affair was governed; yet I verily perswade my self, if instead of that long Patent *De novo*, you had followed the example of your *Ancestors*, who finding some defects in the first Act of their Incorporation, made in 14. H. 8. Chose rather to bring into the *Parliament* small *Additional Bills*, praying such new powers as might enable them to put in execution the true intents of the first Act,

as that of 38. H. 8. In which they desire the privilege of *visiting the Wares of Apothecaries* : and afterward, *Primo Mariae*, another Bill requiring the *Magistrates* to be assisting to them in the execution of this Power, which was forgot before. And likewise another clause was desired, commanding *Goalers* to receive and keep in safe custody such *Prisoners* as should from time to time be committed by the *Authority* granted to the *Colledge*, till they should by them be thereof discharged : I say, if some such course as this had been taken, I make no doubt but the zeal and care of this House is such for the honour and advancement of all true *Learning in the Nation*, that it would have pass'd without much debate : But considering the length of the *new Charter* ; the great numbers of men of several sorts that made opposition, and pretended high exceptions against it ; the many weighty and important things at that time upon their hands, and so the little leasure they had then to examine a business of that nature, as they ought to do ; It is to me no great wonder that it was for the present laid aside.

I have great hope, That whatever may be
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propos'd for the effectual advancement of this *noble Art*, that does not onely serve the necessities of humane Life, but also furnish *Philosophy* with so great a number of real and useful *Experiments*, will be sincerely regarded and consider'd; from the particular *genius* and inclination of the Age wherein we live, which to me seems in a peculiar manner directed to the *contemplation of Nature*: And although many admirable Spirits flourish'd in the former Age, and labour'd in most kinde of humane knowledge; yet the honour of the *true method of penetrating into the causes of natural things* is due onely to ours: For, excepting the Divine Wit of *Copernicus*, none that I remember of that time did any thing of moment in *natural Philosophy*. And I look upon *Galileo* as the first that introduc'd any sound and real *speculations* in that way, by first discerning the necessity and use of *Geometrical Theories* in the considerations of *Nature*. This fortunate beginning was well pursu'd by *Kepler*, and brought to a great degree of perfection by *D. Cartes*, whose incomparable Books have kindled in mens minds such an ardour of searching into the causes of things, that the
great

great Spirits of our time seem all in a flame ; and not onely such persons as have been bred in Letters, and Study , but men of all *Conditions* and *Busineses*, even *Princes* themselves are toucht with this inclination, as the *Prince Leopoldo* in *Italy*, but especially *His Most Excellent Majesty*, who has set on foot the greatest *design* for this end that ever any Nation saw, by Founding his *Royal Society* for the advancement of *Natural Philosophy* by *Experiments* , which will certainly be as Immortal as his own Name and Fortunes.

If then we consider how much *the business of Physick*, well constituted and manag'd, will not only administer infinite occasions to the *speculative* men of this busie and enquiring Age ; but likewise of how much greater importance all its *Experiments* are, both to the publick, and to every one in particular ; we need not doubt but *His Majesty* will believe that *His Colledge of Physicians* is worthy of the same *Royal Care* , that other *Princes*, his *Predecessors* of *Famous Memory* , have had for it : And the *Parliament* afford that *Countenance* and *Authority* , which shall be requisite for it in *Affairs* of so great *Consequence*. And I easily perswade my self, That
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if that *most Learned and Excellent Society of Men* would take so much leasure from their Affairs as to consider the most effectual wayes of advancing all the *Desiderata* of their *Profession*, and supplying the present Defects of it ; they would not only have the *Coun-tenance of the Government* , but also the *Thanks of it*, and of the *whole World*.

In the mean time give me the favour to deal frankly with you about this matter ; as one also a little transported with the same passionate love of real and useful *Philosophy* which I have noted in others ; and besides, have a *particular kindness* for their *most deserving Profession*.

The *Imperfections* then which I note in the present Method of exercising *Physick* in this Nation are these : It loses all the noble opportunities it might have for the *Advancement of it self* , and of the *knowledge of Nature in General*. It is more exposed to *Errors and Mistakes*, dangerous to the *Life of Man* ; and lastly, it is too great a charge to the *People* when they stand in need of it. All which I conceive to happen by receding from the *ancient Form and Method of Practice*, which came early into the world with *Physick*.

it self, and is in all considerations most natural to it, and was indeed the use of former times, till good Learning came to be overthrown and laid wast by the furious irruption of the Goths. In those Ages, that which now stands divided between the Chirurgeon and Apothecary, was the care of the Physician himself, who did not think it too mean a work to dress Wounds, set Bones, travel in the inquisition of Herbs, Stones, Mettals, compound Medicines, with his own hands; and do innumerable other things necessary for this Profession, which are now accounted the ministry of inferiour Persons: And as the quitting of this noble way was the most fatal thing that ever fell upon this God-like Profession; so doubtless the true means of restoring it to its first Beauty and Divine use, were to resume the course of wisertimes, and settle it again in its ancient Constitution. But because a long course of time has so confirm'd this unhappy evil, and that out of those Parts of Physick (for such they really are) which the Physician has despis'd, as below him, are risen two very worthy Societies of men as well in this as in other Nations, I look upon it for many respects as a thing extreamly un-

unreasonable to undertake such an alteration as the restoring of that ancient way would necessarily introduce: yet I do not despair but that an expedient might be thought on, which although it do not arrive to the full perfection of that method, yet it approaches (I think) nearer to it then the present way, or any other I have yet heard of; and is likewise very facil, ready, and practicable, not overturning the present state of things; so far from doing injury to the *Chirurgeons* or *Apothecaries*, as it serves rather to preserve for ever a true and right understanding between them and the *Physician*, and to defend them all against the assaults and pretensions of *Mountebanks* and other indirect practisers of Physick, and yet comprehends a great deal of the true way of the Ancients above-mention'd, so as it maybe fairly hop'd that it will fully answer the greatest part of those ends we have already spoken of, and for which Physick has been so valu'd in the world; and all this without any great trouble, expence, or difficulty either to the ancient Practitioners of this City and Kingdom, or to such as now enter into this Profession.

Now the Idea I would represent, does particular-

ticularly regard these three things: First, to render Physick of greater service and use towards the advancement of Natural Philosophy, which is so universally the design of the present Age. Secondly, To make it more effectual for the great ends of preserving life, and the restoring of health. Lastly, That these ends may be obtain'd with less charge and hazard to the people then heretofore.

And for what concerns the Philosophical consideration of Physick, I must beg the pardon of such as you call *Rational Physicians*, if I so far dissent from them, as to believe Physick (such as it is at present) rather to be a mass of noble Experiments, in which Philosophy might finde excellent matter to write upon, than a Science perfectly form'd and establish'd upon sound and unquestionable verities. For, If we contemplate the common principles explicated in the Physiological part of it, we shall finde them very barren and unfruitful of such Notions as are presum'd to come from them: and very far from opening a prospect into those most intricate and numberless *Phænomena* which happen in the Body of man, and instead of that good which might well be expected from principles
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of true and demonstrated Reason, by which you might have been directed to such a *Methodus medendi* as should grow out of the true knowledge of the causes of things. These principles have produc'd two great evils. 1. Instead of the true way of the *Ancients*, of educating Youth in exercises of *Anatomy*, visiting the Sick with their Masters, examining the nature of *Simples* in Fields and Gardens, practising to compound Medicines with their own hands; they are bred onely to *Disputation* and the fond Controversies of Books. And 2dly, They have caused the cares of *Anatomy*, inspection of *Vegetables*, *Minerals*, &c. (although from these arise the greatest part of those *Experiments* which are to be the foundation of a *Medical Philosophy*) to lie unobserv'd and neglected in such hands as are no way capable to make a true use of them. Therefore for the effective application of the principles of a better Philosophy to the noble *Experiments* of *Physick*, in which vast design *Des Cartes* hath resolv'd to spend the whole remainder of his life; it will be necessary to bring again those *Experiments* into the hands of such persons who know how to manage and employ them for the
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service both of *Philosophy* and *Physick*.

I look upon your learned *Colledge of Physicians* as the onely company of men in this Kingdom, who are in a just capacity of advancing this good design; being such men, as (without the vanity of over-admiring our selves) may truly be said to have advanc'd *Physick* more these last forty years, then any one Society of Physicians in *Europe*: Especially, since I hear they have made so great an accession of worthy and ingenious persons to their number, and that not onely of such as are residing in *London*, but also in all other parts of the Kingdom; by which means, a noble correspondence may be established, concerning the Diseases incident to several parts, as Where they take their rise, and what their motion and progress is, as was of late years observable in the *Rickets*, &c. The nature of the respective Soils, as to *Vegetables*, *Earths*, *Minerals*, *Metals*, &c. Alterations of Weather and Seasons, and many other things relating to the Business of *Physick*. Also by this increase of their number, you have the assistance of so many worthy persons for the carrying on of this excellent design.

I should think it therefore advisable in the
first

first place, that your Learned Society would divide all their affairs (after the example of the most Honourable Assembly of the Nation) among several *Committees* to be assign'd for that purpose. And although the *Physiological* part, which takes upon it self to explicate the causes of all that follows after , be I confess in order of Nature the first , yet will it be found the last in order of Time : as being indeed the result , product , or issue of many laborious and careful *Experiments*, which are first to be made in the other parts of this Noble Art, before a *Medical Physiology* can be well and firmly constituted.

Therefore your first care will be (in my opinion) to appoint *the Committee for Anatomy's*, which should consist of such a sufficient number of men, as that the whole business of Anatomy might be distributed in easie proportions amongst them all. As for instance, to some the consideration of the *Brain* should be assign'd, to others of the *Heart*, to others *the Juices of the Body*, to others the *Bones*, and the like, which you know better how to digest then I: And these to be consider'd as well in all other *Animals* , as in the body of Man, that so by comparing one
with

with another, we may come to investigate their true and genuine uses: *Inspection* also to be made into all *morbid Bodies* that can be procur'd (for which reason all or any Member of this Committee to have free access to the several *Hospitals*) to finde out the *Anomaly's* which Diseases introduce: Likewise these considerations should be in part *Geometrical*, noting the just figure, weight, and proportion (as near as can be) of every thing, and that not only of its whole bulk or manifest cavities, but by the advantage of the *Microscope*, as far as may be discerned, of its more minute parts, their frame, and texture. Partly also *Physical*, according to all their sensible qualities, partly *Chymical*, by the *Analysis* of the fire, or any convenient *Menstruum*. Nor would this create much trouble to any man, being divided into so many hands; and yet the general design would advance more in a few years this way, then it could by the single industry of particular men in a whole age. For neither this nor the other *Committees* should be requir'd to bring in an account of their proceedings above once in a year, nor to meet together above once a moneth, unless they or any number of them

them should be willing to meet oftner to discourse of their affairs, and suggest *Experiments* to one another.

After this manner, *another Committee* should be instituted for the *History of Diseases*. (For what I design to propose concerns onely *matter of Fact*, and the true stating of *Experiments* in order to the building a Philosophy upon them.) By the *History of Diseases* I mean a perfect and exact *Narrative* of those Signes which you call *Diagnostick* and *Prognostick*, together with the experienced method of *Curation*: And I think a work of this nature well perform'd would be one of the most useful things to a Physician in the whole world; and I note it as one of the great *Desiderata* in this Art: all which should be done as well out of all the best *Authors*, as from their own *Practice* and *Observation*. For as to Medicaments, by which the effect is done, that which ought to be esteemed *matter of Fact* is so obscure, and the *Experiment* so uncertain, that unless they can meet with some effectual operations of *Simples* (which will require both good Learning and Judgement to observewell) as yet this part will afford little matter for the consideration of a judicious man.

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Then

Then the whole *Materia Medica*, both simple and compound, should be referr'd to the examination of another *Committee* ; every member whereof should have one , two , or more *Simples* or *Compounds* (either *Mineral*, *Animal*, or *Vegetable*) the nature and vertues of which they should labour by all means possible to finde out, as by *colour*, *taste*, *scent*, *infusion*, *decoction*, *destillation* before and after *Fermentation*, and all other possible wayes, &c. Endeavouring in this manner to finde out what things are most operative with or without any exquisite and elaborate preparation , by which Chymists do often rather destroy then heighten the vertues of the Simple : Also for compounds to enquire the true method of mixing things together, that some may not annihilate the force of others, and so altogether become ineffectual, which will produce an incredible alteration in most of the *Pharmacopœa*'s now in use, bring in the true and ancient way of medication by *Simples*, and so furnish us with real *Experiments* both of use to humane life , and also to the advancement of Philosophy, being without doubt the most easie and effectual way (by dividing a work so vast amongst so many) to form

form and build up such a *natural History* both of *Galenical* and *Chymical Medicines* as has been long desired, but never yet seen in the world. And this were a more likely and hopeful way, then to put the business of *Chymistry* (which as I hear some do so importunately labour for) into the hands of a few men (for the most part) unlearned, and unprovided of such principles and helps as should make them able to reason and conclude intelligibly from that *brave stock* of *Experiments* which this Art affords : And for this cause onely it has been (until of late) so unserviceable to Philosophy, and produc'd nothing but idle and extravagant Theories, such as those of *Paracelsus* and *Helmont* ; who, if they had been as good *Philosophers* as they were *Operators*, would have done a great deal more service to mankind.

Lastly for *Medicaments* themselves, and the application of them to the cure of Diseases, which is the principal thing the generality of mankind expects from Physick ; I take that not to be the business of any one or more *Committees*, but of their whole number united in one common consent ; and I am perswaded it were no difficult thing to take such

a course here, as might secure your Practice entirely to your selves, and hinder others, who now are suspected (how justly I do not say) to go about to usurp it; take away *the excessive charge of Physick*, which renders it very burdensome to the people, and less profitable to your selves; and lastly, make it become more effectual and powerful for the curing of Diseases, and preserving the health and life of Man.

And all this seems to me to consist in the execution of one facil and easie thing, That is to say, *That the Colledge of Physicians would please to enact, under a severe Penalty, That from henceforth none of their Members should make use of the common and more modern way of sending Bills to Apothecaries Shops; but instead of that, To buy their Physick of the said Apothecaries more or less, as their practice shall requie. Together with expresse order, That no Physick should be given to any Patient without setting it first down in such manner and form as was accustomed before in the Bills sent to Apothecaries, with the Patients name, Tear of our Lord, and day of the Moneth; and every such Bill to be fil'd up and kept by the Physician. And the Physick so bought to be dispensed at*
home

home to the Patient by the Physician himself, or his Servant, (or some young Student, educated under him for that and all other things appertaining to his Art) at reasonable rates: The Physician not to demand or expect any other payment but for his Physick only, unless he be sent for out of his own House, and then to be paid his accustomed Fee, according to the Ability of the Patient. Yet this not to prejudice any other Physician of the Colledge, who would take on him the Trouble and Charge of preparing all his Physick himself, which was the use of the Ancients.

The reasons of this Proposition, and the advantages it brings are very many, and of great consideration. 1. It approaches as near to the genuine and true Method of *Hippocrates*, *Galen*, and other great Masters of Physick, as the present constitution of things will admit. And though your Self very well know what they did this way, yet give me leave to put you in minde of some passages of *Hippocrates* and *Galen* to this effect; for which I was lately beholding to Dr.-----our worthy friend; He first acquainted me with the Letter of *Hippocrates* to an Herbarist his acquaintance, to provide him things for the
Cure

Cure of *Democritus*, where he demands only
 Simples, as Juices and Tears of Plants, which
 he orders to be sent in Glass Vessels, and
 Leavs, Roots, and Flowers, which he bids him
 put up in earthen Pots well clos'd ; he directs
 him to the time of gathering them , and the
 place , which was not difficult for him to do
 who was so well knowing of their Natures,
 since he tells us how often he visited his Gar-
 dens, and contemplated with wonder that
Mysterious place the Earth, which brings forth
 Animals, Plants, Food, Medicine, and Riches.
 And these Simples so bought and received
 were by himself to be prepared and com-
 pounded, as occasion should require. I need
 not describe to you the Physicians Shop out
 of the same Author, who has a whole Trea-
 tise of it ; I shall content my self with a
 passage out of his Book, *περί συζητ.* *The con-*
versation and manners of a Physician, which
 evidently shows, how that Physicians of that
 time , did not onely dispense their own
 Medicines themselves, but make them too in
 Shops of their own, by *Hippocrates* called
 'Ιντεσιὰ. His words are these, *A Physician*, sayes
 he, *ought to have his Shop or 'Ιντεσιον provided*
with plenty of all necessary things, as Lint,
Rowlers,

'Ιερωτάτον
 τὸν ἰδρυμα.

Rowlers, Splints ; all sorts of Chirurgical Instruments ; also of Medicines , as for Wounds, for the Eyes, &c. alwayes ready prepar'd. Let there be likewise (sayes he) in readinesse at all times another small Cabinet (as it were) of such things, as may serve for occasions of going far from home ; have also ready all sorts of Plasters, Potions, purging Medicines, so contriv'd that they may keep some considerable time ; and likewise such as may be had and used while they are fresh. The advantage of this will be very great ; for when you come to a Patient you will be more ready and certain what to do, having all things prepar'd by you for your occasions. Which is indeed a most excellent reason to perswade this course, and much better then the hasty and præcipitate way of writing Bills.

And for *Galen*, the same worthy Person has inform'd me, There are so many things in him to this effect, that it would be too great a vanity for me to tell you how he travell'd to *Cyprus* to enquire the nature of *Mettals*, see *Pompholyx*, *Cadmia*, *Diphryges*, *Vitriol* ; and brought home such quantity with him as might serve him all his life ; how he visited *Palestine* for its rich *Balsom*, and the *Bitumen*
found

found there; or how curious he was at *Lemnos*, to see the *Terra Lemniæ* there : he went likewise to *Crete*, *Alexandria*, and several other places for the same end, and most earnestly conjures all who design'd themselves to this Study to do as he did, and provide against the frauds and abuses of Impostors; notwithstanding the great expence necessary for such an undertaking. And a little after complains of a sort of men, who contented themselves to know Simples out of Books, Because (sayes he) the knowledge of sensible things can never be acquir'd but by frequent inspection, and often repeated views. I need not adde that he had a *Repository*, which he call'd his *Ἀποθήκη* (from whence the name of *Apothecary* came) where he tells us his Medicines were alwayes under his Eye, or in his hand. To acquaint you that he made the Emperours Treacle with his own hands, or dress'd the wounded *Gladiators* himself; nor ever gave any Medicine of which he had not first tasted and smelt, nay, made experiment of it (he sayes) upon his own person, and how he was hated by the Roman Physicians for using Simples and plain Medicines; would from me to you be extreamly impertinent, who know
all

all this so much better then I. I shall content my self for the present to rectifie a mistake of some who think that there was a trade of men in *Galens* time, such as our *Apothecaries* now are : but this proceeds from want of understanding the ancient sense of the word *Pharmacopola*, which in those times signifi'd not an *Apothecary*, but such a person as we now call a *Mountebank*; one who sold Physick in Markets, Fairs, and other places of publick Concourse : And these were ever reputed at *Rome* among the basest and meanest men of the Town, and were obnoxious to the common Laws made against Rogues and Vagabonds, as *Pliny* has noted ; And if there were nothing else we might take their Character from *Horace*.

*Ambubaiarum Collegia, Pharmacopolæ,
Mendici, Mimi, Balatrones, hoc genus omne
Mœstum ac sollicitum est Cantoris morte Tigelli.*

And out of *Max. Tyrinus*, We shall find (sayes he) that there is no kinde of good thing but some evil will endeavour to counterfeit it ; so a Sycophant will imitate an Orator, a Sophister a Philosopher, *ἡ φαρμακοπώλης ἱατρὸν* And a

Quack will pretend himself a *Physician*.
 And for the Word *Apothecary* in Scripture,
 'tis so well known, that word means only
 np7 sellers of rich Oyntments, Perfumes, Balsoms,
 and such other *Cosmeticks* as were in use in
 those Countreys (which sort of men were after
 by the *Greeks* call'd *μφοπάλαι*, and *πραπάλαι*,
 and among the *Romans* from the place they
 inhabited *Seplasiarii*, & *Unguentarii* :) that I
 shall not give you any further trouble about
 it.

2. The second reason for this *Method* is
 this : The *Physician* is hereby oblig'd to
 make himself thoroughly acquainted with the
 Nature, Goodness, and exact Preparations of
 Medicines now sold by the *Apothecary*, whe-
 ther Simple or Compound. Otherwise he
 will not know how to lay out his money, and
 may easily be impos'd upon by the dishonesty
 of another, to the ruine of his Patient, of
 his Reputation, and consequently of his
 Livelihood and Subsistence. For what e-
 ver accident may happen from the ill prepa-
 ration of the *Physick*, it will now become the
 fault of the *Physician*, whose ignorance, or
 neglect it was, that he did not provide what
 was good for his occasion.

3. For

3. For the reason before alledg'd, The Physician will be also engag'd to frequent visits of the Apothecaries Shop, to view his Simples, and consider his manner of preparation; from which he will likewise gain many opportunities of *Improving Medicines* already in use, both as to their *Efficacy* and *Operation*, and also as to their *Taste* and *Scent*, which ought to be one great part of a Physicians care, and is now too much neglected; although nothing can be more his interest than this. He will be also more able to *invent new Medicines*, and bring in the use of Simples yet *undiscover'd*: Lastly he will have frequent occasions of observing many excellent *Phænomena*, which now pass unregarded through the hands of Apothecaries and their Servants, for the use and service of *Philosophy*.

4. This renders the Physician much more acceptable to every Patient, and affords him many real opportunities of gaining his hearty kindness and affection, which others now enjoy: and also takes away the Scandal and Reflexion which is cast upon the Physician by some *Apothecaries*, and upon both the *Physician* and *Apothecary* by *Mountebanks*,

and those that call themselves *Chymists*. For the first, Although the writing of a Bill and directing proper Remedies for every Distemper be the result of the pains, and careful Study of many Years, and the Physician that prescribes well may justly be said (under God Almighty) to be principal in the cure of the Disease; yet an ordinary Patient is not sensible of this, but thinks it very hard to part with ten shillings for a few words in Paper; especially when he must go from thence to the Apothecary, and there be at another extraordinary charge for what was prescribed, and also use some means beside, to oblige the Apothecary to prepare it well: Whereas if the same Physician should, instead of that, give the Physick it self that is to be taken, at a reasonable and moderate price, assuring the Patient of his care to prepare it as it ought to be, and also his counsel and advice for nothing (unless sent for out of his own house) he must needs infinitely gain the heart and good will of every man. Besides many occasions would be offer'd of giving to the Poor for nothing, which is Christian Charity; and sometimes also to the Rich themselves, of which a wise man will know how to make
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an honourable and discreet advantage, and put frequent obligations upon them. For the second, I remember well the Apothecaries counsel laid a great and unhandsome scandal upon all your Colledge, and that in publick, before a Committee of our House, affirming you incompetent to visit their Shops, or to make a judgement of their Medicines; and though it was then said with much rashness and passion (there being so great a number of your Learned Members excellently knowing this way) yet I wish there had been no cause to think it in some part true. But this will for ever prevent all calumny of that nature; for now you will understand them better then the Apothecaries themselves. On the other side, the *Mountebanks, Chymists, &c.* have nothing to boast of so much, as *the making their own Physick*, recommending their great industry and care to finde out and prepare exactly the best of Medicines: and accusing the Shops of dull, enactive, and slight preparations, and yourselves of too much delicacy, pride, sloth, and ignorance, for not providing better, and taking pains (as they pretend to do) in searching into the *Rich and large Stock of Remedies,*

dies, which the wisdom and bounty of Nature has created in so great plenty for the benefit of men.

5. This will restore the ancient, true, and only fit way of *breeding up young Students* in this Faculty : That is to say, in exercises of *Anatomy*, knowledge of *Herbs*, mixing and compounding *Medicines*, visiting the Sick under the *direction* of a grave *Physician*; not as they are now for the most part, in *speculative* discourses only, and reading of Books. Thus was the late famous Dr. *Wright* the younger educated under Dr. *Fox*, and was the first Physician that dissected at the College, which till his time had ever made use of *Chirurgeons* in their *publick Theatre*. And while the young Physician employes his industry in such services as these for the elder, he gains, (besides what is learn't from Books and Authors) the long experience of the other, *sees his Patients*, *hears him discourse of their several cases*, *considers the Medicines provided for them*, and *observes their several effects* : All which advantages you now in vain give away to *Apothecaries*, to whom the *Practice of Physick* does not belong. And if this has been the course that all mankind has ever

ever taken to raise and propagate *Practical Arts and Trades* of daily use in humane life, why should it not be us'd in *Phyick*, which is a *Practical Art* of so much greater consequence? especially if we consider how dangerous the errors of this Profession are, and how necessary a *Practical Education* is for any man that intends the exercise of it, as *Galen*, and more particularly *Hippocrates*, often inculcates, and the nature of the thing makes it evident. I need not tell you how it was confin'd till the time of *Hippocrates* to one single Family, under a curse not to communicate it to any other, nor reckon up the many famous men who were *Galen's* Masters, from whom he learn't this Art, and whom he mentions with so much honour. Yet give me the favour to recall an excellent Passage of *Hippocrates* to this effect. He advises a Physician when he carries his Disciples with him to a Patient, to appoint in his absence such a one of them to observe the Patient as is well advanc'd and studied in this Art, and knows what is fit to be done, and how to give him an account of the case, that so he may be ignorant of nothing that is material, though he could not be there himself. These things consider'd, if a person

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τυροῦντα ἔστω
τὸς ὁ σπουδαί-
ος. ἢ. πρὸ
ἐννοεῖται.

son of three or four years standing in either of our *Universities* (for none else should be entertained by any) should agree with a Physician for a reasonable consideration and acknowledgement to be made (which was held very honourable in *Hippocrates* age, as appears in his Oath, and was the practice at that time) to live with him till he be *Doctor in that Faculty* (being oblig'd to take his *Degrees* in due time with performance of all the accustomed *Exercises* : nor to be admitted to them without the *Certificate* of the said Physician, both concerning his *Time* and good *Deportment*.) Or if a person already *Batchelor in Physick* should contract to stay till he become *Doctor*, taking his *Degrees*, as was before exprest : and these two absolutely prohibited *Practice* till they have taken the degree of *Doctor* : Or if any already *Doctor* should contract for as long a time as he and an elder Physician can agree (not to *Practice* during his continuance with him, without his knowledge and consent.) I should think for the reasons alledg'd, it were the best and most desirable way to institute men for that Profession, and might with great facility be brought into practice, and is at this
time

time the use of many parts of *Italy*. Nor does a Physician run half the fortune of other men who breed up Youth to their Trades, since the old Physician will ever be held by the world for the more able man. Nor let any man think to disgrace this Method as Mechanical, by the imputation of taking Apprentices; since the word Apprentice is entertained by the honourable Profession of the Law, whose younger Students have been call'd Apprentices to the Law; but however this be, it were very fond for so poor an occasion, to neglect a thing that is founded upon the evidence of true reason it self. Nor indeed should they be received in the capacity of Servants, or under that name, but rather of young *Students, Friends, or vertuous Companions* to be instructed in this worthy Profession; the drudgery of all things resting wholly upon some ordinary Servant kept by every one for the uses of his Family: and I make no doubt but there are very many ingenious young men in *England*, who would be very glad, and take it for a great honour, to be thus received by some of the *Grandees*, and great Practitioners; and their Friends believe whatever is bestowed on them in this

way very well and honourably employed.

6. This will bring all sorts of men both rich and poor to apply themselves immediately to the Physician, and so in a short time quite overthrow the practice of *Mountebanks*, and other *Persons* ignorant of the Art of Physick, who now take upon them to administer it, contrary to the *Laws of the Nation*, and to the great *prejudice* and *damage* of the people: For it is not to be thought, but all men who have occasion to use Physick would much more willingly address themselves to a sober and intelligent Physician, then to this sort of men: But first, the *charge of advice is great*, and then as great the *charge of Physick*, at the *Apothecaries*; which things so affright the ordinary sort of people, that they very unwillingly come to a Physician, and many perish for want of due help. And I am perswaded if there were no other reason then this, every Physician who is touch'd with Conscience, Honour, or Philosophy; will be very glad to entertain some *expedient*, that may remove the *scandalous Reluctancy* that most people have of using this Profession.

7. This will render the practice of Physick more successful, plentiful, and of no less ad-

advantage then before : As for the success ; besides that the Physician may justly have a greater confidence in his Physick , now he takes care himself to have nothing but what is good , than he could before when it was made up out of his sight ; he has also the opportunity of seeing every Disease in its *first rise*, and *beginning*, which gives him a mighty advantage for the true understanding and cure of it. And for the encrease of his Practice the bringing so many people of all sorts to him for advice, who before durst not come , will much enlarge his *Business* and *Experience*, and not make his *Profit* less : for though he gain nothing more, by the Physick he gives, than what will barely recompence the trouble of himself and his *Minister* for dispensing it ; yet he will not lose , since in all *acute cases*, and such as hinder the Patients *attendance in person*, (and he is seldom sent for in any other) he must necessarily be brought home, as he now is to all people of condition.

8. The trouble of undertaking is but little, especially after the first entrance into it, and valu'd with the great good it will bring to so noble a Faculty ; and the great ease,

profit, and advantage it affords to an Elder Physician, not unworthy of consideration. First the ancient Physician may employ the eye, hand, and youthful vigour of the younger to assist the frailties of Age, and humanity. Also it will take off much of the labour of visits in his own person, or when call'd up unreasonably at Nights, or when he goes into the Countrey to other Patients, or to refresh himself a little from the toils of Business: For the people would finde greater satisfaction in the visits of another Physician bred under him they so much confide in, than when he is forc'd to send his Apothecary. On the other side the Physician himself would be much better satisfied in the report of his Patients case, as *Hippocrates* has excellently noted.

9. In some respects, this way is much better then that used by the Ancients of making all their Physick at home. 1. It is less troublesome; publick Shops being now open, furnish'd with all sorts of Medicines commonly us'd, or where all such Physick may be suddenly and dextrously prepar'd which any man shall in particular desire for his own occasion. 2. 'Tis less expensive, for now every
man

man buyes only so much as he shall have use for, be it more or less ; so that the charge of money thus laid out is exactly *measur'd* to the *proportion* of every ones practice : such as are but just entred into business, will accordingly expend but a small matter in Physick, and that too may easily be dispens'd by themselves, with the assistance of an ordinary domestick servant, remitting a great many things, as, *common Clysters*, &c. to the Patients own making, giving him only the ingredients, as is now the use of the Physicians in *Paris*. 3. 'Tis more certain : for a man that provides his own Physick, and makes it himself, will never know well how to estimate his *quantities* ; he will have sometimes too much which turns to loss ; or too little, and so want when he has occasion to make use of it ; but now he buyes only what is necessary, and can never want, unless you suppose all the Shops in Town *exhausted* ; for there will be nothing in common use, but one or other Shop will afford it : to which we may adde, that he has now his choice of what is both cheapest and best, whereas the negligence of a Servant might either make a thing ill, or in the making spoil it so, that he might begin a
new

new, though present occasion may require it for use. 4. It will enlarge the *materia Medica*, and make a greater *variety of Practice*, which must needs be of excellent concernment, unless we think (as some over-bold men have lately don) that nature has made so *ample provisions* in vain: but they who provide at home, will be lead (to save expense as much as they can) to confine themselves to a very scanty and narrow method of *Practice*: as some foolish persons know no other Medicaments but what are made from *Mercury* and *Antimony*, despising all the *royal Apparatus of Gods Creatures* beside; though we cannot doubt but the vast alterations, and various dispositions of Bodies, *Climates*, *Diseases* were particularly aim'd at by Nature in her so infinite and magnificent provisions of help. And though I do not deny that Medicaments, *Antimonials*, and *Mercurials* decently prepar'd are of wonderful efficacy; yet it is so well known they cannot perform half that is so idly promis'd by their admirers at all times, and in all bodies; and that a mean and ordinary *decoction* has in some cases effected what they could not do. 5. By preserving the publick sellers of Medicines

or *Pharmacopola*, you comply with the present State of things which cannot well admit any other change then what has been said.

10. And whereas many apprehensions, and suspicions have lately arisen between the *Physician* and *Apothecary*, as if the *Apothecary* did invade the *Physicians* practice : This way will for ever most entirely and absolutely secure his *Practice* and *Profession* to himself. For now the *Apothecary* will never see a *Physicians* Bill (from which they always take direction) nor the Patient himself, and so be utterly ignorant of that case for which the Physick is prepar'd and us'd ; nor will he hear the *Physician* reason and discourse of the due times and manner of administering it, or explain the nature and cause of the distemper, nor have occasions of officious intervening between the *Physician* and Patient, nor dispense the Physick with praise of his own great pains and care in preparing it, as he was wont to do : so that he will quickly free himself of the imputation some now lay upon him, and be for ever unable to do the *Physician* that injury which is now suppos'd to be done by some of them. All this the *Physician* obtains by only concealing
his

his Bills (the writing of a Bill being, as I may say, the mystery of his Trade) in which therefore he does nothing but what is held most reasonable among all men.

11. This will likewise secure the Physician another way against the suppos'd usurpation of Apothecaries: for if any Apothecary shall take on him to practise Physick, upon notice given to the Colledge, it may be enacted among your selves (without troubling the Parliament for new power, and without the envious way of fining and imprisonment) That no Physician shall buy any Medicines of such Apothecary till the Colledge be fully satisfied that he is sensible of the injury done to them, and will cease to do the like for the Future.

12. It gives every Physician as many, or more opportunities of doing kindness to his particular friends that are Apothecaries: And that is, by being himself, and engaging as many Physicians as he has interest in, to become their customers.

13. As to matter of Consultation among Physicians, it is here sufficiently provided for by filing up Bills of all the Physick they give; and therefore this is to be required of every man by the Colledge, under severe Penalties.

And

And if any man have particular Medicines of his own which you call *Nostra*, the case is here the same as in the former way. For I am inform'd, every *Physician* is oblig'd to *acquaint the Colledge* with them if it be requir'd. Besides, this filing of *Bills* (or entring them into a Book) may have another excellent use: For doing it *Alphabetically*, a *Physician* may by some private note discern a great while after, which of his Medicines had a good effect, and which had not, or fail'd, and in what *Temper of Body*, and how to accommodate himself to the same persons at other times: and lastly, may from hence (if he pleases) produce great numbers of observations, which may well deserve the *Publick*, and be highly useful to Posterity. And it would be very much for the good of *their Profession*, If no *Physician* would for the future write any thing in the practice of *Physick* but what had been experimented by himself, and that all the practitioners of it would be more careful to set down such remarkable accidents that come under their observation.

14. This way by making the *Physician* a perfect Master of the *Materia Medica*, has these three great effects, besides what has

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been mention'd already. 1. It renders him more able to discover the use of *Simples*, when he has occasion to travel into *Forreign Parts*, so enlarging both *Physick* and *Philosophy* with new and useful discoveries. 2. He will be more fit to serve the Prince in His *Navy* or *Army*; where, if his stock of *Medicines* be all spent or corrupted, without this knowledge he is utterly incapable of providing himself a new, to his own dishonour, and *prejudice* of others. 3. By observing the *several mutations* that happen in the preparations of things as well *Simple* as *Compound* he will be assisted to consider *what effects like them* may happen upon their mixture with the *Blood*, and other *juyces* of the *Body*, and to give a huge light to the reasons of the *Phænomena* both in *Health* and *Sickness*. Of this that very worthy person *Dr. Willis* has already given the world an excellent taste, and promis'd an entire *Discourse* upon that subject, which would be of vast use, and in which he stands indebted to the publick.

15. It is a generous and worthy thing, that *Physicians* should be knowing in the *matéria Medica*, as was *Hippocrates*, *Galen*, and all the

the old *Masters of this Science*. It has been already said how great the endeavour of these brave men was, to acquire a perfect understanding of all they made use of. And without doubt it is a thing most indecent and *unnatural* for a *Physician* to despise the *knowledge of that* by which all his great works are to be effected. *In the old and heroical times of Physick*, Medicines were excellently call'd *Divine*: *The hands of the gods*: And I think it is the highest sort of shame to see a *Physician* at a loss for *Medicaments in the Country*, where *Nature*, the bountiful provider of them has so rich and large a Shop open, because he wants his *Apothecary* to write to, or the *knowledge of the things themselves*, or the *way how to make use of them*.

16. This way has in many great respects the advantage of the common course of writing Bills to the *Apothecaries*. For in the first place, by seeing the very things they administer, by mixing, ordering, compounding them as they have occasion, by consideration of the *tastes, scents, and colours of Medicines*, and how variously all these are changed and altered by the mixture of several things together, they will be much more able to pre-

serve in memory what is proper and useful for every Distemper, then by reading their names in Books onely, *and so direct better, and with greater ease, and certainty.* Likewise by understanding *the true wayes of mixture,* and being acquainted with the *tastes and scents* of things, a great many errors will be avoided, *and Physick be render'd much more pleasant and palatable:* Finally, a great many excellent Experiments will be drawn from it, for the use of *Philosophical speculations.* Now in the present Method of your Bills, either the Physician depends wholly upon the memory of what he has read in Books (which Galen greatly condemns) and then we shall never hope to promote *this Art* beyond its present limits, although 'tis well known there are so great treasures of powerful and active Medicines yet undiscovered: Besides, if we do not exactly remember the very proportions and measures of every thing in every Medicine (which is impossible) we cannot reasonably hope well from it, because (as my Lord Bacon observes) the Experiment was made in such quantities only, which when we alter, considering the nature of things *à priori*, are altogether unknown to us, we know not what

we do. And though *Physicians* commonly endeavour to provide themselves rather of the general *materia medica* than of particular *Receipts*, yet if we duely weigh the strange alterations that happen upon the blending several things together, and the unexpected results of quite different qualities, the unpleasing scent and taste they acquire many times, especially if their proportions are not precisely just, we shall not think it strange, that so wise a man as that great Person was, blam'd this last and uncertain way. And as to the common proportions and quantities by which *Physicians* govern themselves in the usual forms of *Medicines*, they vary so much, according to the several natures of things, that whoever is not well acquainted with the things themselves shall never be able (as *Galen* notes) to direct as he ought to do. And none will doubt but any *Physician* could make a better *Apozem*, *Potion*, *Julep*, or the like, by measuring the Proportions of each ingredient by his taste and scent, then by writing a Bill from the unexact proportions of Authors, especially if he be not very well acquainted with the things he prescribes. In a word, neither these proportions themselves, nor their

their Books had ever been at all, if *Physicians* had not in former times been knowing in all Simples, examined their vertues and tempers, enquir'd into their effects, and mixt them with their own hands.

17. Lastly, if any still think this way too troublesome, and are unwilling to excuse a little trouble for so many great conveniences both to themselves and their whole Profession, there remains yet another expedient for them, which they may make use of, without doing prejudice to those, we are contented to enter into the course already propos'd: They may (if they please) have an *Apothecary of their own*, and send their Bills to be made up by him as now they are; provided only,

1. That the time and manner of using it be not set down; nor
2. The name of the Patient.
3. That it be not sent by the Patient, but by their own Servants.
4. That it be returned to the *Physicians* again with the *Physick* it self, to be fil'd up by them with the *Patients* name added, or entred into a Book, as was said before; and the *Physick* so made and provided by the *Physicians* order, to be fetch'd at their own houses (as it is now at the *Apothecaries Shops*) or from thence sent home

home by their own Servants to the Patient.

Now if we consider how this way respects the *Apothecaries*, 'tis evidently a fair and moderate course between them and the *Physicians*, not taking away, nor lessening any of the *priviledges* and *immunities* granted to them by their *Charter*, or which they claim, and enjoy as *Freemen of this City*, or other *Cities and Corporations*. For it hinders not their making and selling of *Physick* to any that please to buy of them, which thing only belongs to their Trade: To visit the Patient, feel his Pulse, consider his Urine, discourse of the state of the Disease, and prescribe proper Remedies for it, is the business and care of the *Physician*. So that I dare presume no *Apothecary* who is content to live on his own Trade without invading the Profession of another (and I doubt not but the greatest number and ablest men among them are such) will think ill of it; but rather be pleased to see, that for the future all causes of jealousy and suspicion between *Physicians* and them, will for ever cease, the interests of both be preserv'd, and the practice of *Mountebanks* and *Quacks* brought to nothing.

2. It will very much conduce to the profit
and

and advantage of the Apothecary : For now the people finding encouragement to address themselves to the *Physicians*, who before to decline the charge and expence of a Doctors advice, went only to the *Mountebank*, who made and gave all his *Physick* himself ; It must needs come to pass , that the *Apothecaries* must provide and vend much greater quantities then they *could before* ; And thus all that which went away to *Quacks* and other ignorant pretenders be brought into the hands of the industrious and careful *Apothecary*.

3. It will insensibly lessen that exorbitant number of *Apothecaries*, which makes the Trade burdensome to it self, and scarce a competent subsistence for a man after he has spent a good sum of money, and seven years or more in an Apprenticeship to understand it. For as things are now, while the Masters or their Servants are employed by the *Physician* to visit his *Patients*, and carry *Physick* about, if an *Apothecary* have great business, he will be under a necessity of taking several Apprentices, else he cannot perform such *attendances abroad*, and the business of the *Shop* too : And this has made so vast an encrease of the Trade within a few years, as
has

has rendred it but a mean way of livelyhood, to a great many, and very dangerous to the sick: Now as their number will by little and little grow less, so the Trade will become better, and they who are of it, both for skill and estate much more considerable.

To come now and consider how much more this way is for *the common good and welfare of the people*, and in general of *all men*. First, it mightily abates *the charge and expence of Physick*: and this is the only reason, why so many persons not of the poorer sort only, but even some others of a better condition, daily put themselves into the hands of Mountebanks and other ignorant persons, to the great prejudice of *the lives and health of men*. Also many Poor of this City and other places (to the high dishonour of Religion) perish for want of necessary help; whilst on the one hand they are terrified by the Physicians Fee, and on the other by the unconscionable and unbounded prices of Apothecaries. A course therefore is taken here, that all sorts of people may apply themselves to the Physician both for advice and Physick too, at moderate and reasonable rates: Nor can it be thought the Physician will use a greater excess in the

prices of his Physick than others have done, because he does not depend upon the gains of the Physick he sells to such as come home to him, but (as he did before) upon the Fees which he receives from persons of condition and ability, when he is sent for out of his own house : For the trouble of selling his own Physick to such as shall come to him, he takes upon him only to advance the publick interest, satisfie himself more in his own Profession, serve *Philosophy*, minister to the necessities of *the Poor*, consult for the greater security of all, and to gratifie and oblige those Patients whose more ample condition of life makes them able to pay such Fees as have formerly been accustomed. But if any man should sell at as dear rates as others have before, yet is it to be consider'd, that then *nothing is paid for advice*, which till now was a great and particular charge of it self; and, beside, Physick cost as much as now 'tis suppos'd to do. So that according to this Method, *the charge of advice is wholly taken off* to the great ease of the people, who will have at least both *Advice and Physick* too, for the same rate which they before paid for Physick alone. But I dare not allow a supposition so

unreasonable, and so much not only against the honour, but also against the interest of every Physician: for admit he should make his Patients pay (as has been formerly done) for the formalities of a Bill, as for a Clyster, a Potion, or Julip, half a Crown or more, and not for the Ingredients, which (it may be) never cost six pence: I say, if any should take this course, it would quickly be his utter undoing; nor would any Patient make use of him another time: but especially they would extreamly murmur to pay him those Fees which otherwise he might justly expect, and upon which it is his interest chiefly to depend, and not upon the inconsiderable gain of the Physick he sells, and chiefly when that slight gain shall make him so great a loser; whereas by neglecting so poor and mean a profit he may have so handsome and generous occasions offer'd him of obliging his Patients in such a manner, as to get much more then he could have done by his Physick. And if I may take a conjecture from your self, and some other Physicians my acquaintance, these of your Colledge are such as would scorn from Patients so civil as to pay the ordinary Fees duly, to take more for their Physick then

what it barely cost; nay, often would give it for nothing. And yet if they should make some small advantage, it might be allowed them for the money they lay out, for the trouble of themselves and Servants to make up and dispense the Physick, and still it would cost the people much less then before. And that all persons would very frankly allow this, we have little reason to doubt, if we consider,

2. The many advantages all men receive this way in the more speedy, safe, and effectual cure of Diseases, both in respect of the *Physician*, the *Disease*, and the *Physick* it self.

1. The *Physician* administering his *Physick* himself will be under a necessity of taking greater care to have all he uses very good, and most exactly prepared: for no man can now lay the fault upon the neglect or ignorance of an *Apothecary*. It rests altogether upon himself, and he becomes responsible for it: also by this means *secret mischief by payson*, or other wayes is *more easily prevented*, when the publick knows where certainly to charge it then when it is diuided among several parties who transfer the fault from one to another. And since the Commonwealth must trust some-

some body, they may as well trust the *Physician* as the *Apothecary*: for though he write a Bill never so good and wholesome; yet if it be not made as is prescribed, any kinde of mischief may follow: And, as far as the *Apothecary* or his Servant is now believ'd for making Physick according to prescription, so far ought the *Physician* to be credited, for using only such Physick as appears by his Bill fil'd up or entred; and this is no more then what is now allow'd to every *Mountebank* and *Chymist*, and what all ancient times have securely put into the *Physicians* hand. 2. In respect of the Disease; it is now the general unhappiness both of Patient and Physician, that he is never almost sent for, till things are brought to extremity, and all opportunities of curing near lost: where, if the Disease had been encountred in the first rise of it with powerful and convenient Medicaments, the Patient had been again restor'd to *Health*, whose life it may be must now answer for the first omission. 3. In respect of the *Physick* it self; for the Disease thus met in the beginning is often carried off with a little matter, which neglected, requires a long and chargeable course. Again, the publick may be as-
sur'd,

fur'd, *That all Physick shall now be as good as the Apothecary can make it (else no Physician will buy it of him) or the Physician possibly contrive it, for his own honour and advantage.* Thus in a short time will the Shops of Apothecaries be rid of all that unwholesome trash, that too many now abound with; and the poorer sort of them who are forced to buy of others to set up as for the Countrey (which commonly is the refuse of their Shops) will, as they justly deserve, be quite discourag'd. For though such stuff might serve well enough to make up a Physicians Bill, who is not present to see what ingredients are used, yet they can never vend them to a Physician himself that comes to buy. Likewise the visitations of Apothecaries Shops will be more frequently, carefully, and sufficiently manag'd. And lastly, Apothecaries will be more in their Shops, and not leave things to raw or negligent Servants as is too often done; for not being sent about by Physicians to their Patients, or with Physick; nor engag'd in any quacking practice of their own, they will have more leisure and opportunity to attend making good Medicines, which is their proper business.

3. The charge of the people for Physick will

will be much lessen'd both as to the quantity and quality of it. For now many Physicians are forc'd to abandon my Lord *Bacon's* counsel, who advises by no means to recede rashly from any experimented Receipt or Form ; because this would bring them into the contempt of *Apothecaries*, and also discover their practice so, as the *Apothecary* might use it to their prejudice, as some have done : Not to mention how many are oblig'd to write a great deal more then is necessary, putting in things of great price and little effect to serve dishonourable interests.

I have heard some worthy Members of your Colledge wish also that a new *Pharmacopœa* were agreed upon : But it was quite of another Nature from that now in use : For although this be better than any other extant. Yet I know they well understand, it has many things that need *Reformation* : but that is a business that requires mature consideration, and the present perplexity of affairs will not permit it ; yet I think you are not unwilling the world should know, you can take notice where it is defective, as well or better than any of those men, who would go about to disgrace it with vain and impertinent clamors
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taken out of *Zwelfer* and some other Writers: It was wisht that the Shops instead of the Medicines now commonly made, were furnished with Simples only. Of which, such as are best and most effectually used with a little, or an easie preparation, as powdering, infusing, boiling, and the like, should be so kept as might longest preserve their vertue and operation: and such as are most operative by a more curious way of preparing, as in *Tinctures, Extracts, Essences, Elixirs, Spirits, Syrrups, Juices, Robs, Conserves, &c.* to be likewise in such manner prepar'd, as may retain their vertues most, and likewise render them most durable. By which means, although the present expence of making them be more, yet considering their long duration, it will in effect be less then it is in the present *Method*. The Physician that comes to buy will be able to make a better judgement of their goodness, and may use them either either simple (which was the way of ancient times) or compound them as he sees occasion, by which he will likewise come to observe the many and great alterations that happen from mixtures of several things together; he will also be more able to make them
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gustful and palatable ; thus preserving the *Tone of the Stomach*, which is so much destroyed by ordinary Physick, that in *Chronical Distempers* it may be doubted whether it do not more hurt this way than it can do good another. Likewise in all compositions he will be sure to have the vertues of every ingredient, which will scarce be found in the compounds of the Shops, as has well been observed by *Zwelfer* : yet he himself is not without his faults in the same kinde too, as my little experiments have informed me : In a word, *Simple Medicines* thus prepared and kept, are not so subject to corrupt by the usual fermentations of mixt things, and so will be more effectual for the use of such *Physicians* or *Chirurgeons* as have occasion to carry them abroad with them (as *Hippocrates* has well noted ;) or such as are employed in the Service of *His Majesties* Armies or Navies.

But, not to give you too much trouble with my long Letter, if we please to consider the strange and intricate variations of Diseases, brought in partly by new Dyet, discoveries of new places, the nature of particular Soils, and how these are mixt, combin'd,

and complicated both with the old, and with one another ; it will be the rather necessary to put something of this nature in execution. I have often heard your self, and several others of your ingenious Collegues discourse well and substantially on this Argument, which makes me the more wonder at the late Writer of *Medela Medicina*, who would, contrary to his own reason and conscience, endeavour to perswade the world, that this was a thing altogether unthought of, not only by your *Colledg of Physicians*, but all those who are commonly call'd *Galenists* : and yet he himself hath said no one thing in that whole discourse, concerning this matter, that can be pretended new, for which he has not cited the very Books, and words of some *Galenist*, or *Methodist*, as he calls them : And to me it seems the greatest Argument in the world on your behalf, why his *Majesty* and the *Parliament* should shew you all manner of kindness, that such various and irregular changes daily appear in the *Distempers* of humane Body : For if we allow *Physick* to be altogether *Empirical* (as he pretends) it must needs follow, that in such things he ought to be esteem'd most able and sufficient, who is
fur-

furnish'd with most and best Experiments, either from his own observation, and these are properly his ; or by reading of Books, which afford him the experiments of all the rest of the world, and can best conclude and argue from the Analogy, Correspondence, and Harmony, they have to one another ; so that a study'd Physician must in all consideration of reason have far the advantage of any other. But 'tis alledg'd, You are too rigorously confin'd to the rules and methods of the Ancients, who had few or no experiments of this kinde ; and likewise neglect that high and more potent way of *Medicine*, which the *Chymists* only know how to make use of. But 'tis evident, this is a very unkinde and unjust imputation ; for though in the former age, when *Chymistry* first began to show it self in *Europe*, *It was condemned for its novelty and dreaded as full of dangers* ; yet for any to affirm in these more illuminated times that *Physicians* so oblige themselves to ancient Methods, as to despise or not consider the *differences and alterations of several times, Regions, Dyets, Tempers, changes of Diseases* caus'd by these ; The new and more exquisite wayes of *preparing Medicines* : If he be a

man of learning and understanding, he must needs be thought to abuse his own reason for some particular interest; since he brings so great a scandal not onely upon many worthy private persons, but upon the freedom and ingenuity of the whole age; whose happiness and honour it is to be unconfin'd, and disdains the Pedantry of being enslav'd to any name or sect whatsoever: and when an Inquisition of truth comes before them, can as little regard the names of *Hippocrates* and *Galen*, as of *Paracelsus* or *Helmont*: and as freely make use of any thing it findes good in these, as reject what is untrue or mistaken in the other. And to measure the temper of the present time by that of the past, is so great an injustice, that I will desire no other instance to shew it, then out of *that Book*. For those very men who were (as he sayes) at first condemned by publick censure of the Colledge of Paris, *Sir Theod. Mayern*, and *Quercetan*, came by his own confession, in after times to be held and reputed among the greatest Physicians of their Age: nay further, to see how little you despise Rational Chymistry; One of these very same men *Sir Theod. Mayern*, a great Chymist, and an excellent Physician, was one of the

the chief men of your Colledge in his time, and had a great share in making the *Pharmacopæa*.

Since then your selves look upon Rational Chymistry, as an excellent way of enquiry into the natures of things, and manag'd with sound *Reason* and *Philosophy*, an excellent way also of preparing Medicines; since you are as much conversant in *Chymical Authors* as any others, and have as many and more assistances, of learning and experience to judge of them (by which I am sure you discern every day, as many vain and absurd things in the best of them as any pretended Chymist can finde in the *Pharmacopæa*) since you condemn no sober person that loves this noble Art, but such idle and vain men only, or, to say most softly of them, such *melancholy Operators*, who being wholly destitute of those principles that should make them able to judge with reason of their own experiments, and transported with the novelty and strangeness of things they do not understand, boldly adventure through the lives and blood of men, to make tryal of such preparations, of which they (lighting on them by accident onely) neither understand the reason, nor the use; since

since I say these things are so, you ought not to believe the wise men who govern the Affairs of the Kingdom will ever consent to take away so important a part of Physick out of the hands of so many ingenuous, learned, and inquisitive men as your *Colledge* now consists of, or so much discountenance an honourable Profession, and way of educating Youth in the Nation, and give it to such as these; especially since the very Philosophical freedom you own and profess, has rais'd you so far above the poor and empty name of any Sect or party. If therefore your Committee for the *materia medica* be settled, as before was said, it will more improve *Rational Chymistry* in all its parts, then any design these men can pretend to; Particularly in the *Analysis of Vegetables*, hitherto almost wholly untouch'd, which will I doubt not afford more noble as well as more amicable *Medicins* than *Minerals*. And in pursuit of that, if you would address your selves to his Majesty and His Honorable Council, and assure them you are ready to erect a publick Laboratory, for the use of his Majesties Subjects, where all Chymical Medicines fit to be us'd shall be well and faithfully made up on the Faith and Authority of the Colledge, and
 ex-

expressly appoint, that all *Apothecaries* whose
 Physick you shall think fit to buy, shall pro-
 vide all their Chymical things from thence ;
 unless any Physician be satisfied to let him
 prepare them with his own hand, nor to per-
 mit the use of any other *Chymical Preparati-*
ons to any of your own number, except he
 himself make and prepare them You have no
 reason to doubt but all wise men will think
 you are as able to perform, as those, who if
 they could do but one hundreth part of what
 they so impudently promise, would be equal
 in fortune and estate to the *greatest Princes of*
the Nation. And if to all these real perfor-
 mances you please to adde a little of outward
 shew and appearance, and assume at conve-
 nient times, and on publick occasions, the de-
 cent use of those *Ornaments of Habit*, and
 other *Insignia*, which the wisdom of our An-
 cestors has thought fit, upon grave and deli-
 berate advice of *Princes* and *Universities*,
 to bestow upon your Profession ; you will
 finde it was not done in vain, and that they
 well consider'd, with these things the wise in
 all Ages have been wont to govern the frail
 and weak understanding of the vulgar. And
 that among those who are no good Judges of
 real

real worth, it is the only way to secure it, both from being affronted and contemned.

I hope you will excuse the much freedom I have us'd with you, the truth is, I have so great a zeal to see something of this nature effected for publick good, that if your own particular interest joyn'd with it, will not prevail, I could desire it may be thought adviseable to provide for it by *publick Authority*: that so the burdensome charge of Physick might be remov'd, and that noble Art rendred of more ample consequence to the world, the professors of it be so encouraged, as Gentlemen may think it a worthy course of breeding for their Children, that Philosophy may receive the benefit of its many excellent experiments, that a right understanding may be ever preserv'd between *Physicians* and *Apothecaries*, that every man in particular may finde greater comfort in the use of those numerous Remedies, that *Almighty God* has provided to succour us in our afflictions: and last of all, that as our Nation has had the honour of one of the best things that ever was discover'd in the Theory of Physick, *The Bloods Circulation*; so it may give an example to all the

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the world of the best, and soundest, and most
rational way of *Practice*. With her Ladiships
Service presented to you, I remain,

Sir,

Your assured Friend
and Servant.

T. M.

FINIS.

E R R A T A.

Page 13. line 23. read *bath*, p. 10. l. 10. r. *require*. p. 11. l. ult. r. *Friend*. p. 12. l. 28. insert *Of*. l. 10. dele *that*. p. 24. l. 1. dele *there*. p. 29. l. 23. r. *unaffive*. p. 34. l. 25. r. *his*. p. 36. l. 2. r. *worthy*. l. 8. r. *unreasonably*. p. 37. l. ult. r. *must*. p. 38. l. 32. del. *so*. l. 23. r. *what*. p. 42. l. 23. r. *for*. p. 45. l. 12. r. *lax*. p. 60. in *mar.* l. 17